appropriate feeding practices, inequalities in distribution of land and wealth, limited access to safe drinking water, health care and sanitation are some of the major causes responsible for widespread malnutrition.

(d) The adoption of National Nutrition Policy (1993) is a major step in the direction of reducing/eliminating malnutrition. The Policy (NNP), is a comprehensive document and contains a set of direct interventions in the short term and long term measures involving institutional and structural changes aimed at tackling the problem of malnutrition. With a view to effectively implement the Policy, a National Plan of Action on Nutrition has been formulated which incorporates sectoral plans for achieving the time-bound goals on nutrition. In addition, concerted efforts are being made by the Government for improving the nutritional and health status of infants and children through focussed nutritional and health interventions which chiefly include the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Balwadi Nutrition Programme (BNP), Scheme of Creches/Day-Care Centres, Child Survival and Safe Motherhood (CSSM) Programme and other Maternal and Child Health Care (MCH) Programmes.

Ban on Beauty Contests

7483. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from Women's organisations to put a ban on beauty contests and fashion shows throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether beauty contests and fashion shows are sexually exploiting women; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SMT. BASAVARAJESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has received no such reports.

Literacy Rate in Gujarat

7484. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the literacy rate in Gujarat is low than the other states of the country at present;

(b) if so, the reasons, therefor;

(c) whether Government has not provided the sufficient funds for this purpose; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KM. SELJA): (a) and (b) The literacy rate in Gujarat (61.29%) is well above the national average (52.11%). The literacy rate in Gujarat has increased from 30.45% in 1961 to 61.29% in 1991.

(c) and (d) Government is providing sufficient funds for Universalisation of Elementary Education, Non-Formal Education and Adult Education to achieve education for all. Total Literacy Campaigns have been sanctioned for all the 19 districts in the State. The outlay approved for Gujarat for the Eighth Plan is Rs. 162.90 crores and outlay for 1994-95 was Rs. 18.16 crores.